

March 26, 2007

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"This was a chance to say 'thank you' and listen to our soldiers. Our troops and their families sacrifice so much for our country," said Congressman Wilson.
"As a Member of Congress, it is my obligation and honor to offer support to them in every way I can."

During his visit to Walter Reed, Congressman Wilson had a chance to speak with dozens of service men and women, including two soldiers from Ohio.

Last week, Congressman Wilson voted for the **U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007** (H.R. 1591), which provides \$3.4 billion for military and veterans' health care.

The Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007 (H.R. 1268), a bill cosponsored by Congressman Wilson, is expected to come to the House floor this week.

"Support for our troops must extend beyond the battlefield," said Congressman Wilson.

"Military families deserve a strong support network while their loved ones are away. Wounded soldiers and veterans deserve the best medical care available. Recent reports show there are troubling cracks in the system and that our government isn't always living up to its promise. This is deeply disturbing, and it must change."

Specifically, the **Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act**:

- requires semiannual inspections of all military medical facilities; inspection reports will be submitted to the appropriate congressional committees and military leaders; the reports will also be posted online

- provides veterans staying in substandard facilities with alternate housing options

- reduces paperwork and red tape for recovering service members and their families

- calls on the Department of Defense to ensure each facility staffs a sufficient number of caseworkers and supervising officers.

Local Note: The 35 blankets distributed by Congressman Wilson were designed and donated by Suzy Miller of Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Miller, whose mother lives in St. Clairsville, has donated more than 100 blankets to the military men and women at Walter Reed.